(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to stop this illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Assistance to Private Schools in Leh and Kargil

3507. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the grant in aid sanctioned to various private schools in Leh and Kargil district of Ladakh during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far, school-wise; and

(b) the agencies through which the amounts have been distributed to such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Post of Chairman in GFCO

3508. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the post of Chairman of the Ganga Flood Control Organisation has been lying vacant for the last two years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the officers who were selected for appointment had not joined;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposed to appoint immediately the Chairman in the interest of work of the Organisation;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Recruitment process in respect of the post of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, is in an advanced stage and an officer will be appointed immediately once the selection process is complete.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Drop Out Rate

3509. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of students drop out of Primary and Middle School level in Western Rajasthan due to non availability of High/Higher secondary Schools within reasonable distance;

(b) if so, the break-up of drop out cases between urban and rural area and between male and female students; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce the drop out rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). According to information furnished by Government of Rajasthan the availability of secondary and senior schools in districts of Western Rajasthan is not less than the state average of such schools per lakh of population. However factors such as distance and sparse population do contribute to high drop out rates in this region. The drop out rates in classes I-V and I-VIII in 1993-94 in Rajasthan were as follows :

	1993-94	
	Classes (I-V)	Classes (I-VIII)
Boys	54.76	62.34
Girls	63.02	72.34
Total	57.44	65.43

(c) The Central and State Government have taken a number of measures to reduce the drop out rates which include exemption from payment of tuition fees, provision of free text books, and introduction of mid-day meals scheme. The two projects for basic education, namely Lok Jumbish and Siksha Karmi assisted by Swedish International Development Authority in Rajasthan are also taking steps to reduce drop out rates.

Constitution of Commission

3510. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has recently constituted a Commission headed by Mr. GVK Rao, former Principal Secretary to the Union Agriculture Ministry as its Chairman;

(b) if so, the details regarding its members as well as the terms of reference of the Commission; and